

REMARKS

Claims 6, 8-14 and 29-36 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form and new claims 30-36 correspond to original claims 8-14 and depend from claim 29.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the Examiner's indication that claim 29 is allowed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 30-36, which depend from claim 29, should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 29.

I. Objection to the specification

In response, Applicants have amended the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 to replace the phrase "the second masking layer (4)" with --a solid electrolyte layer (4)--, as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to rejection of claims 6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenichi et al. (JP-05047611; hereinafter "JP '611") taken with Applicants' allegedly admitted prior art (specification pages 3-4) and Nakamura (U.S. Patent 5,483,415) as evidence, and further in view of Robinson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,795,647).

Applicants respectfully respond as follows.

JP '611 relates to a method for manufacturing a solid electrolytic capacitor where a masking layer, such as one formed by screen-stencil and/or an adhesive tape, and then an insulating film is formed by electrodepositing a solution containing a

polyamic salt and heat treating to form a polyimide film. In Example 1 of JP '611, the masking material 2 is screen-stenciled polyvinyl alcohol, which is removed prior to heating to form the polyimide film. In addition, in Example 1, the polyimide tape (masking material 3) is removed after formation of the polypyrrole film.

JP '611 discloses that the dielectric oxide film is formed, then the masking layers are formed on the dielectric oxide film.

In contrast, in the present invention according to amended claim 6, the first masking solution to forming a first masking layer is press-coated on the metal material, not on the dielectric oxide film. In addition, the masking material solution is applied linearly around the entire circumference of the metal material.

JP '611 does not disclose that the masking material and the insulating layer are applied linearly around the entire circumference of the metal material. *See* Figs. 1-3 of JP '611.

Therefore, JP '611 does not teach or suggest the present invention.

Further, in the present invention, the masking solutions are applied by press-coating. Such method of applying a masking layer is neither taught nor suggested in JP '611, as acknowledged by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner cites Robinson as teaching forming a polymer layer by roll coating, and takes the position that one of ordinary skill in the art would have applied the insulating layers of JP '611 by roller coating because of the desirability and necessity to coat the polymer layer on portions of the substrate for mass-production.

Robinson is directed to a printing plate made by coating a metal substrate with a polymer layer. Therefore, Robinson does not relate in any way to solid electrolytic

capacitors, and is not relevant to the present claims. That is, Robinson does not relate to solid electrolytic capacitors, and therefore does not provide any technical motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the insulating layer of JP '611 using roller coating.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of claims 6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 6,8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Murayama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,412,533) taken with Applicants' allegedly admitted prior art (specification pages 2-4) and Nakamura et al. as evidence, and further in view of Cichanowski.

In addition, on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Murayama with Applicants' allegedly admitted prior art (specification pages 2-4) and Nakamura as evidence, taken with Cichanowski and further Kudoh.

Applicants respectfully respond as follows.

Murayama relates to a method for manufacturing a solid electrolytic capacitor where an insulating layer is sandwiched between the capacitor element and the anode member, and teaches a method of forming resin layers on the outer surface of the porous rod-like members 5 or 11 along and covering dividing lines by coating, for example, as shown in Fig. 11 (col. 6, lines 55-56). The formation of the resin layers may be before or after the tantalum pentoxide layer 8 is formed. Subsequently, the porous rod-like member is divided into the capacitor elements.

In contrast, the present invention does not include a step of dividing a masking layer.

Also, as described in col. 8 lines 1-8, an objective of Maruyama is to provide a method for manufacturing a capacitor in which there is no need of molding the capacitor element by resin and the volumetric efficiency of the capacitor can be remarkable improved, which enables reduction of size and weight of the products.

In contrast, the present invention is advantageous in reducing the leakage current and in reliably insulating the anode portion and the cathode portion to reduce the occurrence of short circuit of the capacitor as described in the INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY section of the specification.

In addition, press-coating of resin layers is not taught in Maruyama, as acknowledged by the Examiner. Based on the disclosure of Murayama, "molten resin is injected into a space between the end face of the element body 1 and the flange part 3b of the anode member 3" to form an insulating layer 4 as shown in Fig. 12 (col. 7, lines 9-17). Also, as shown in Fig. 13, a part or the entire surface 3b' of the anode member 3, which faces the insulting layer 4, is tapered (col. 7, lines 30-36) to provide a reliable insulation of the anode from the cathode resultant capacitor.

Therefore, the Examiner cites Cichanowski as teaching forming a polymer layer by roll coating.

However, as previously noted, Cichanowski discloses that a dielectric coating of a polymer formed on a substrate may be applied by roller coating. Specifically, Cichanowski discloses that "a dielectric coating 11 of a polyfunctional acrylate polymer may be formed by. . . for example, vacuum evaporation or roller coating" at

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col. 9, lines 58-62. In addition, Cichanowski discloses at col. 10, lines 1-9 that “a dielectric coating of a polymer of at least one polyfunctional acrylate as previously described and deposition an electrode layer on said dielectric coating. The coating may be produced by applying the polymer. . . by conventional means such as flowing, spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating. . . “.

Therefore, Cichanowski does not teach or suggest applying masking resin layers by roller coating, but teaches applying a dielectric coating by roller coating. In this regard, it is also noted that Cichanowski does not teach or suggest the use of insulating layers, and therefore, there is no specific teaching to apply a masking layer by roller coating. Accordingly, there is no technical teaching in Cichanowski that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art would not to apply a masking layer using roller coating.

MPEP §2141 mandates that the reference be considered as a whole, and therefore, the Examiner is required to consider the entire disclosure of Cichanowski, which discloses applying a dielectric coating, not a masking layer, by roller coating.

As to claims 12-14, Applicants rely on the response above with respect to the rejection over Murayama, Nakamura and Cichanowski

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

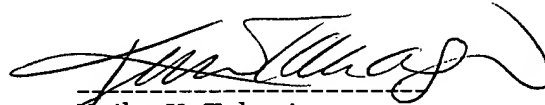
Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 6 and 8-14 is solicited.

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If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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